APPLICANT(S):

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SERIAL NO.:

10/002,405

FILED:

December 5, 2001

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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following Abstract:

--Decoding an encoded block of data is accomplished by partitioning the block into a first and a second sub-block and performing forward and backward iterative calculations on the sub-blocks in separate processes. Based on results of the iterative calculations an output matrix may be calculated for each sub-block. The outputs may be combined.--